

Battlecats enjoy Oktoberfest in Iraq

Soldiers hold Bavarian bash in Iraq

By Alexandra Williams
284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Not having the opportunity to celebrate Oktoberfest in Munich this year, members of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, decided to bring Oktoberfest to the Iraqi desert.

"It's very easy to get into a very boring routine here in Iraq, which can lead to losing one's 'edge' while on patrol. It's important to break up that routine by having a unit day to make sure everyone stays focused," said Capt. Geoffrey Wright, company commander, via email.

"I've been to the Oktoberfest a few times and I realized that a lot of our Soldiers have never been. We decided Oktoberfest would be a great theme for our organizational day downrange. I contacted our Family Readiness Group to ask for their support, and they were very enthusiastic as well," he said.

"When Capt. Wright told me about the fest I called the German spouses in our company so we could get together for a brainstorming session," said Company B Family Readiness Group leader Sofia Caulwell. "We discussed what items the company would need for an authentic Oktoberfest and what kind of games they could play."

Their list included non-alcoholic beer, sauerkraut, bratwurst, Knödel (dumplings), Bavarian music and games such as finger and arm wrestling and a bratwurst-eating con-

test.

"Then we noticed that some items could become a problem. First, the food could not be sent too much in advance or it would spoil. Second, the bratwurst became an issue because the original sausage contains pork. To go around that we suggested the guys have a Knödel-eating contest, and we tried to get most of the food items in cans so they would not spoil," Caulwell said.

"It's important to break up that routine by having a unit day to make sure everyone stays focused." — Capt. Geoffrey Wright

"(Spouses) Monica Webb and Katharina Lowe got on the phone and called breweries asking them for T-shirts, beer mugs, hats and coasters. We spoke to travel agencies asking for scenic posters of Germany. We found a butcher who made special beef bratwurst that he canned for us. One spouse even had about 10 compact discs with German Volksmusik. The rear detachment helped us pack everything and send it downrange in September," she said.

In the meantime the Battlecats received a monetary donation from Bob Arpahanian, a businessman from Tempe, Ariz. Using the donation and pooling money from the Soldiers, the company was able to rent a tent, buy bread and local Iraqi food.

"I also asked German breweries Licher, Kulmbacher, Warsteiner and Beck's for decoration items, and they enthusiastically responded," Wright said.

Because of operational requirements the fest took place a day later than scheduled, on Oct. 11, but this did not spoil the fun for the Battlecats.



Photo by Capt. Geoffrey Wright

Soldiers of Company B, 2-37th Armor, enjoy traditional Oktoberfest food and "near beer" at the company's Oktoberfest. The fest, supported by the company's family readiness group gave Soldiers a break from daily routine.

"The fest lasted for about three hours. At the same time we were doing tank patrols in Sadr City, which was having some unrest at the time, so as patrols came back for their break they did maintenance, changed clothes, ate and played games or listened to the music," Wright said. "They liked the fest. I think they were amazed by the ability of our spouses to find such items and get them to us halfway across the world. For one day you could feel as if you were living an almost normal life — (enjoying) a 'near beer' out of a real glass Krug almost tastes like real beer."

The Battlecats were not the only ones to enjoy the event. "Our Iraqi translators were amused by the event, but they clearly sympathized with the desire to have a reminder of

home for one day," Wright said. "And our (battle) dog Track Pad definitely liked the wurst better than the Spam he usually gets."

Wright and Caulwell said that they both learned a lesson about their "home" in Germany.

"To me the best part of organizing the fest was to see how supportive the Germans were of this event. I think it showed the relationship between Germany and America is still strong on a personal level," said Wright.

"The planning was a lot of fun, and I learned a lot about the German culture," said Swedish-born Caulwell. "I met a lot of Germans and learned that they were sympathetic to what is happening to American soldiers. The Germans might not agree on politics, but they can still be our friends."



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Ready for an emergency

Butzbach Elementary School students and teachers leave the school to walk to their shelters in Roman Way Housing as part of a school-wide emergency evacuation drill. Such exercises are mandatory for the schools to familiarize teachers and students with the proper emergency procedures.

ACS update ... ACS update

Bad Nauheim Outreach

The Bad Nauheim Outreach Center offers assistance all year long. For more information on services provided and workshops offered call mil 324-566 or civ (06031) 813566.

Translator service available

The Butzbach Outreach Center offers translator service for those mind-boggling letters or to call local vendors such as the phone company every Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. For details call civ (06033) 925 329.

Tea time in Butzbach

The Butzbach Outreach Center hosts Tea Time every morning from 8:15-9 a.m. for tea, coffee and conversation. Everyone is welcome. For more information call civ (06033)

925329.

Keep in touch

The Butzbach Outreach Center has computers available with Internet access for spouses to email family members. For more information call civ (06033) 925 329.

Scrapbooking Basics class

ACS hosts Scrapbooking Basics Nov. 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Giessen and Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Butzbach. Reservations are required. For details call mil 343-7618 or civ (06033) 925 329.

Thanksgiving luncheon

The Bad Nauheim Outreach Center hosts a Thanksgiving luncheon Nov. 12 from 1-4 p.m. Free lunch will be provided by ACS for Soldiers, civilians and family members. Children are welcome.

Giessen MP makes Army Rugby team

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Giessen's Sgt. Aaron Eckert of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 284th Base Support Battalion Provost Marshal's Office, has been selected for the Army Rugby team. He will play in an all-services tournament against teams from the Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and Marines.

Eckert left the BSB Oct. 10 to attend a weeklong training camp at Fort Lewis, Wash., which will be followed by the tournament play.

"Sgt. Eckert will be missed in the PMO while he is away, but we are proud to have an MP from the 284th BSB community representing the Army in the All-Services Tournament. I am sure that he will do a great job for the team just as he does for our team,"

said Capt. Matthew J. Jemmott, 284th BSB provost marshal.

"I am very proud, but also surprised that my application for the team was accepted," said Eckert who is assigned to the PMO as the Drug Abuse Resistance Education officer.

When he arrived in Giessen six years ago Eckert already played sports such as football and lacrosse, but rugby was not on his list, he said.

"About three years ago I checked the Giessen University web page and read that the university offers various sports for anyone interested. I wanted to try something new so I joined their rugby team. At first I did it just for fun, but then it became a passion. But I would have never thought that one

day I'd be part of the Army team," he said.

"I am from Watertown, N.Y., which is about 15 miles from Canada, where they have one of the best rugby teams in the world, yet I did not care about the sport then. I had to come all the way to Germany for that," Eckert said.

Being one of the few Americans on the university team has never been a problem, he said.

"My German teammates sometimes make fun of me. They say Americans are hitting too hard and have no clue about the technique — to them that's a typical football player mentality. Yet with rugby it's not strength, but the technique that matters. But they are just making fun of me. Actually we get along great. I can only recommend fellow

Americans to come and join our team," Eckert said.

Looking back at his development and success in the sport Eckert gave credit to his leadership, fellow soldiers and his wife. "The BSB has given me a lot of support. After all there is a high risk of getting injured in this sport," he said.

"But they adjusted my duty schedule if necessary enabling me to participate in the games, and they made sure I could attend practice four times a week. My wife Kathleen always supported and encouraged me. Occasionally she plays rugby herself so she knows how much fun it is."

Representing the Army has given Eckert new goals to ponder. "I'd love to play in a first league team like Spain, England or France," he said.

"I am sure that he will do a great job for the team," — Capt. Matthew Jemmott



Photo by Alexandra Williams

The 284th Base Support Battalion's Sgt. Aaron Eckert was selected to play for the All-Army Rugby team.

Community spotlight

Commissary holiday schedule

The Giessen Commissary will be closed for Thanksgiving Nov. 27-28. The store will be open Nov. 23 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Nov. 24, 25 and 26 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Nov. 29 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. For details call mil 343-8448 or 6549.

Dietician sought

Choctaw Management Service Enterprise seeks a dietitian or registered nurse for the Women, Infants and Children-Overseas program. Experience in maternal, child or infant nutrition is required. A registered dietitian is preferred and WIC-O experience is desirable. Applicants must have a current U.S. Army Europe driver's license and be willing to travel. Email a resume, cover letter and a copy of applicable licenses to Cathleen.holmes@ramstein.af.mil, mschrank@cmse.net, fax it to mil 480-9383, civ (06371) 479 383 or drop it off at the Butzbach WIC-O office located across from the Butzbach Health Clinic in Building 6543.

High school bingo

The Giessen High School Booster Club sponsors Polish Pottery and Crystal Bingo at the school Nov. 7. Proceeds support the junior class. Tickets cost \$8 in advance or \$9 at the door. Doors open at 6 p.m. and bingo starts at 6:45 p.m. For more information call Rhonda Lambert at civ (0641) 495 5954.

Harvest Fest Oct. 31

The 284th Base Support Battalion Chaplain's Office sponsors their third annual Harvest Fest at the Giessen Middle-High School Oct. 31 from 5-8 p.m. There will be games, prizes and candy. Bring your own containers. For more information call the Chaplain's Office at mil 343-8020.

Town Hall Meeting

Residents of Butzbach's Roman Way Housing are invited to a Town Hall Meeting Nov. 12 starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Butzbach Elementary School.

Creating banners for children Nov. 1

The Giessen Commissary hosts a creating banners for children day Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the commissary's break room. Children of all ages are invited to help create banners for deployed Soldiers in Baghdad. Painting supplies will be used, so children should dress appropriately.

Christmas workshop to be held Nov. 7

Giessen Army Community Service hosts a Christmas workshop Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants will learn about local German traditions and where to shop on the economy for gifts. Make Christmas wreaths, festive bows and decorations and get meal planning ideas for the holiday table. Reservations are required. For more information call mil 343-7618/6039.



Photo by Rizza Asuncion

Welcome to the club

Brionna Calmes, left, gives DeShawn Maynard a temporary tattoo as his mother and cousin look on during a recent Funky Chicken Month celebration. The 284th Base Support Battalion School Age Services and Child Development Centers sponsored this event for children living in the Friedberg and Bad Nauheim housing areas to show their parents the programs they have available for children age 6 to 12. "We have a 4H Club that meets weekly for children in elementary grades and we are getting organized for the Clover Buds 4H Club for preschool children," said SAS employee Rizza Asuncion. The centers are currently looking for volunteers to be 4H Club leaders. "4H is a nationally recognized organization that teaches life skills, develops leaders and provides community service opportunities," Asuncion said. For more information call mil 324-3137/3492.

Trips in November

The 284th Base Support Battalion Outdoor Recreation Office offers a trip to Haarlem, the Netherlands, Nov. 1. A trip to the Königswinter Castle is scheduled for Nov. 15. Call Outdoor Rec at mil 343-8202.

Giessen drama

Giessen's Keller Theater presents "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," a drama by Robert Louis Stevenson, Nov. 7, 8, 13-15 and 20-22 starting at 7:30 p.m. Reservations are recommended. The box office is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 4:30-8 p.m. For more information call mil 343-6515.

Bowling news

The Giessen Bowling Center, "Ironsides Lanes," is open Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. It is closed on Monday. The new snack bar Americana Diner offers all-American cuisine and take-out service, and lunch specials Tuesday to Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call mil 343-6172 or 7702.

Bad Nauheim walk

The next Bad Nauheim walking tour takes place Nov. 7 starting at 9:30 a.m. Wear com-

fortable shoes and bring money or a sack lunch. For details call civ (06031) 81-3566.

Holiday mail help

The Army Post Office seeks volunteers to help get mail out to families in the United States and to deployed Soldiers. For more information call mil 324-3198 or 3109.

Volunteers sought

The Giessen Helping Hands Outreach Ministry seeks volunteers to help expecting mothers with daily activities such as running errands, light lifting and light housework. Anyone interested can call Kim Smith at civ (0641) 495 5974 or Jennifer Brown at civ (0641) 495 5963 for detailed information.

Operations security

The 284th Base Support Battalion Security Office recommends community members always consider how much information they are revealing in their email, postal mail, telephone calls and casual conversation. They warn people to always minimize or avoid sharing details such as names and number of soldiers deployed, unit mission and deployment and redeployment times and locations. For more information call the 284th BSB security manager at mil 343-6623.

Mail pick up in Bad Nauheim

The 55th Postal Company offers mail pick up service at the Bad Nauheim Commissary. The mail drop box is located between the entrance and exit doors. Community members may place letters and first class mail inside the box during commissary hours. The mail will be picked up every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 3:30 p.m.

Mailroom holiday hours

The Army Postal Offices in Giessen and Friedberg will be open Nov. 22 and 29 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Auto skills in November

The Giessen Auto Skills Center offers tune-ups Nov. 4, 11 and 18 from noon to 6 p.m. for \$18. Fluid levels will be checked Nov. 10 and 21 from noon to 6 p.m. for \$5. For more information call mil 343-7050.

School book fair

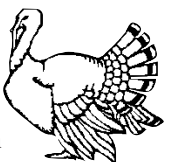
The Giessen Elementary School hosts a scholastic book fair Nov. 4, 5 and 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Nov. 6 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. For details call the school at mil 343-7248.

Get crafty

Giessen Arts and Crafts hosts a **Cross Stitch** class Nov. 4 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. The cost is \$15. Learn how to make **foamy door hangers** Nov. 6 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. The cost for the class is \$5.50. A **Candle Making** class will be held Nov. 11 from 5-6 p.m. The class costs \$15. The Friedberg Arts and Crafts Center hosts a **Black and White Photo Processing** class Nov. 3 and 17 from 4-5 p.m. The cost is \$10. A **Wood for Beginners** class is scheduled for Nov. 5 and 19 from 5-6 p.m. The cost is \$20. A **Fun with Ribbons** class takes place Nov. 6 and 20 from 6-7 p.m. The cost is \$10. A **Christmas Wreath-Making** class is scheduled for Nov. 7 and 14 from 6-7 p.m. The class costs \$15. For details call in Friedberg mil 324-3266 and in Giessen call mil 343-6445.

Sports events

The 284th BSB Sports Office hosts a **Schiffenberg Castle Turkey Trot** 10-kilometer run and a free three-kilometer **Family Fun Walk** Nov. 22. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and the race starts at 11 a.m. The cost for the run is \$10 without a commemorative T-shirt or \$15 including the shirt. Trophies will be awarded to top three in age categories, both men and women.



A **Powerlifting tournament** is scheduled for Nov. 15. Registration is from 8-10 a.m. The competition begins at 10:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$10 including a T-shirt.

Bulk trash pickup slated for Nov. 7

The next bulk trash pickup date for all housing areas in the 284th Base Support Battalion is Nov. 7.

Medics help Iraqi boy walk again

By Sgt. Mark S. Rickert
372nd Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

As the specter of war loomed over Baghdad last spring Ali Saffah Sr., fearing for his children's safety, packed his family into his car and drove them to his sister's house just outside the city. There he hoped his family would be safe.

They found peace for a while, but everything changed March 29 when a missile landed just down the road, only a few meters from where Saffah's 10-year-old son, Ali Jr., was playing. The blast tore through the neighborhood, turning the calm evening into a fury of shrapnel and fire. After a desperate search, the family found the boy lying in a heap of rubble. He had lost nearly both

legs and his right arm in the explosion. The Saffahs rushed him to a hospital, where medics said he might not make it through the night, much less walk again.

Walking again

Today Ali Saffah Jr. is indeed walking again, thanks to the support and concern of coalition Soldiers. His father turned to the American Army when the Baghdad hospital caring for his son could no longer help because of the overwhelming number of patients. "The hospital could only keep patients for seven days," said Saffah Sr. "We needed more help. We had very little medical supplies, and we were running out. So we took the baby to the Army for help."

Medics with the 3rd Infantry Division took an interest in the boy and provided medical attention and supplies. They became close with the family, but their time in Iraq was drawing to an end.

Before leaving Baghdad, the 3rd ID physicians introduced the Saffahs to 1st Lt. Jaime Davila, a physician's assistant with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armored Division. Davila had just arrived with the 2-3rd FA, and the 3rd ID physicians asked if he would continue to care for Ali Jr. after they left.

"I was very interested in helping the kid," said Davila. "It was the humanitarian thing to do."

Today, after months of helping with supplies, medicine and other

necessities, and checking with the family on a regular basis, Davila has the pleasure of seeing the boy walk.

"It is rewarding to help him. I saw him today — walking, smiling — that's rewarding."

Painful recovery

The younger Saffah's recovery has been painful and beset with many hurdles, among them finishing school, said Davila. In order for Saffah Jr. to finish the semester he had to complete a final exam. Ali's legs were still healing; however, he couldn't walk to the school to take his exam. Davila worked with another officer to get the boy a walker.

"We went to a shop that sold medical supplies, and a soldier bought the walker using money from

his own pocket. The family was exited and extremely thankful," said Davila.

"Davila is a very good help," said Saffah Sr. "He brings medical supplies; he brought a walker so my son could walk; he even brings candy. Each time we see Davila, he asks if he can get us anything."

The Soldier's native kindness has promoted good feelings around the community, said Saffah Sr. The neighborhood is happy knowing that the Army is taking care of the citizens.

"The neighborhood knows what the Army has done," Saffah Sr. said, "and they are very happy when the Army takes care of the citizens. They say, 'look how the U.S. Army is caring for the children better than Saddam did.'"

Giessen educator named Teacher of the Year

Her dedication and enthusiasm earned Heide Hurd, physical education teacher for Giessen and Bad Nauheim elementary schools, the nomination as the Department of Defense Dependents Schools Heidelberg District Teacher of the Year.

"Heide is an exceptional teacher who inspires and motivates all children to do their best," said Barbara Mueller, Giessen Elementary School principal during a recent school-wide assembly honoring Hurd.

"I am proud of being selected, but I also feel privileged to be able to inspire and coach the kids with really valuable life lessons," Hurd said. "I feel as if I am in teacher's heaven. Not a day goes by without gratitude and appreciation for how wonderful life is."

The dynamic educator empowers children with brain-powered movements such as the "funky chicken," "disco" and "drive the bus," while listening to youth versions of "Who Let the Dogs Out?" and other child-friendly tunes.

"The days of 'caveman PE,' such as dodge ball, kick ball and calisthenics done by counting are long gone," she said.

"I remind my students about the powerful life lessons such as the importance of being honest, to be kind and polite to each other and how persistence and self-motivation are key qualities to success," she said. When the children enter the gym, they find their "homes," eat some oxygen and know that they have an action-packed PE class ahead of them.

"As they warm up and stretch I talk about their goals and remind them how working together and cooperating will allow them to focus on the challenges of the day — and most of all, to have a fun-filled day in PE," Hurd said.

She said she teaches her students that playing basketball like Michael Jordan or tennis like Venus Williams are not the most important things in life. What counts most is their strength of character, honesty, kindness and the ability to approach the unknown with a "you betcha" attitude, she

said.

Another accomplishment of Hurd's is involving sixth-graders in coaching and teaching. "The sixth-graders have the responsibility of running the primary grades Fun in the Sun Field Day and helping primary students during the school-wide action art day. This involves the children dancing to music and splash-splashing paint onto T-shirts that are worn on field day," Hurd said.

"I truly believe all students have the potential to succeed, and it is our job to empower them with the confidence and understanding that success does take work and may include some failure, but it is the persistence and 100 percent effort that allow us to reach that full potential," said Hurd.

As the Heidelberg District Teacher of the Year, Hurd will serve on district and Department of Defense Education Activity committees. She'll also receive a cash award for the recognition. (Courtesy of Dr. Terry R. Emerson, Heidelberg District Superintendent's Office)



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Rondeau wins SORT award

Tara Rondeau (left) chats with 284th BSB commander Lt. Col. Bart Shreve and DPW director Birgit Welter after receiving the Separate Or Recycle Trash award for September. "My son Ryan and I always separate the trash because it's easy. It's the German law and I think as their guests we should respect that law and recycle," said Rondeau, who works as a teacher's aide at Giessen Elementary School. Beside the award she received a camera and a \$25 gift certificate.

Children's corner

Story time in Butzbach to be held Nov. 12

The 284th Base Support Battalion Army Community Service Outreach Center in Butzbach hosts Story Time for children Nov. 12 from 1-2 p.m. For more information call civ (06033) 925 329.

Movie Day in Giessen

Giessen ACS hosts a Movie Day for children under 5 Nov. 11 and 25 from 10 a.m. to noon at the ACS conference room. For details call Deborah Gantt at mil 343-7618.

Parent and Me Playtime

ACS hosts Parent and Me Playtime for children under the age of 5, in Friedberg every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon, in Giessen every Friday from 10 a.m. to noon and in Butzbach every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information call Martha Pinion in Friedberg at mil 324-3465, Katherine Rodgers in Giessen at mil 343-9311 or Tamara Smith in Giessen at mil 343-8076.

Newborn child care

The New Parent Education and Support Program offers parents unable to attend classes home and office visits. Parents can learn all aspects of caring for a baby on the way or a new baby. For details call Giessen ACS at mil 343-9311, Friedberg ACS at mil 324-3465 or the Butzbach Outreach Center at civ (06033) 925 329.

Parents Night Out

CLEOS hosts a Parent's Night Out Nov. 14 at the Giessen Child Development Center from 6:30-10:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 per child and includes dinner and a snack. Registration is required and participating children must be Child and Youth Services registered. For more information call Heather Irwin at mil 343-8216.

Hourly child care

The Friedberg CDC offers hourly child care from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for \$2.50 per child per hour. For details call Heather Irwin at mil 343-8216.



414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Community notes . . . Community notes

Dedication of Pioneer Chapel

Pioneer Chapel will conduct a dedication ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 2 at 10 a.m.

National Disability Awareness Month

October was designated National Disability Awareness Month to ensure that people with disabilities receive the same treatment as other citizens. For information about policies and programs concerning Individuals With Disabilities call Claudette Marshall, the IWD program manager, at mil 322-8097 or civ (06181) 88-8097.

Adopt an Angel

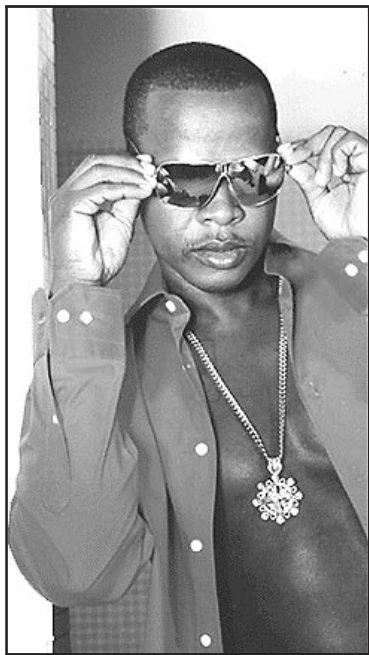
Army Community Service is preparing for the holiday season Adopt an Angel program that will run through Dec. 12. The program solicits referrals to be made to Family Readiness Group leaders and rear detachment commanders of children up to age 18. Anyone interested in donating gifts may contact Adele Georges or Princetta Wright at the Hanau ACS office at civ (06181) 88-8963/8965 or mil 322-8965/8963. ACS is committed to making this an enjoyable holiday season for all the children in this community, officials said.

ASIST training

The 414th Base Support Battalion Chaplain's Office will sponsor Applied Suicide Intervention Skill Training for directors, deputy directors and senior leaders Nov. 6-7 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Building 1351 on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. With suicides in the Army on the rise, the training is more important than ever, officials said. Call Brigitte Loeser at mil 322-1570 to sign up.

FAST classes forming now

Functional Academic Skills Training is scheduled for Nov. 3-25 and Dec. 1-19 from 8 a.m. to noon. FAST classes provide Soldiers with on-duty instruction in reading, mathematics and language skills. The FAST class is a 60-hour academic course and is limited to 20 students. The objective is to improve job performance, prepare soldiers for advanced courses, increase military career options and enhance educational skills. The class runs four hours each day for three weeks. Soldiers with a GT score be-



Are you ready for reggae?

Mr. Vegas brings reggae to Hanau Nov. 14. See below for details.

low 100 who are not high school graduates are advised to take advantage of this program. Participation is free for logistically supported Soldiers and their family members who may enroll on a space-available basis. Call the Pioneer Education Center at mil 322-8380 for details.

Mr. Vegas comes to Hanau

Reggae dance hall artist Mr. Vegas takes the stage Nov. 14 at Hanau Black Sounds on Alter Ruckinger Weg. Tickets are 15 Euro in advance or 20 Euro at the door. Call Sgt. Johnson at civ (0174) 645 7268 or (0162) 324 1707.

ASEP course at Central Texas

An Advanced Skills Education Program course for noncommissioned and junior officers will be held Nov. 17-21 from 1-5 p.m. Students will receive one semester hour of college credit in management from Central Texas College upon completing the course. The class, Computers and Their Role in Your Life, examines the computer and its use in the workplace. Enrollment is free to all eligible active duty Soldiers. Call the Pioneer Education Center at mil 322-8380 for information and assistance.

On the road with Outdoor Rec

Travel to Venice Oct. 31 to Nov. 2. Cost is \$79 per adult, \$45 per

child. The bus departs Friday at 6 p.m. and returns Sunday morning.

Take a **Berlin Getaway** trip Nov. 1-2. Enjoy round-trip transportation, one night in hotel with breakfast and a guided tour of Berlin. The bus departs 4 a.m. Saturday and returns Sunday around 8 p.m. Cost is \$129 for adults, \$79 children for children 4-12.

Travel to **Normandy, France**, Nov. 7-11. The trip includes round-trip transportation, three nights in a hotel with dinner and breakfast and a full-day guided tour of major historical sites such as Utah and Omaha Beach. The bus departs at 6 p.m. Friday and returns Monday around 8 p.m. The cost is \$259 for adults, \$189 for children. Stop by Outdoor Recreation in Building 459 on Old Argonner Kaserne or call mil 322-8891, civ (06181) 88-8891.

Medieval fest at Ronneburg

Ronneburg Castle will host a medieval festival Nov. 1-2, featuring handicrafts, knights, jousting and more. Ronneburg Castle is between Büdingen and Hanau.

Family Fun Fest at Argonner

Attend the Family Fun Festival Oct. 31 at Argonner Elementary School from 6-8 p.m. This year's theme is "western round-up." Call Terri Petrie at civ (06051) 828 655 for information. The event is co-sponsored by AWANA and the Hanau Protestant Women of the Chapel.

Wine tasting

The German-American Spouses Club will host a wine tasting evening Oct. 30 beginning at 7 p.m. at Weingut Englert in Alzenau. Cost is 15 Euro per person and includes a light dinner. Everyone is welcome. Car pools leave from the New Argonner Kaserne gate at 6:30 p.m. Maps are available. To attend and for directions call Mary Payant civ (06181) 300-8676 or Tina Latham at mil 322-7219, civ (06183) 913 088.

'It's a Scream'

The Five Pfennig Playhouse will stage the horror comedy "It's a Scream" in performances Oct. 30, 31 and Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, \$12 or 12 Euro, are available at Hanau USO. Call mil 322-8725 or email 5pfennig@104asg.mwr.army.mil. Children under 6 will not be admitted. The Five Pfennig Playhouse is

in Building 405 on Old Argonner Kaserne.

Child care job

Part-time child care providers are needed during Sunday morning Protestant service at Fliegerhorst Chapel. The job is a paid contract position. For details and an interview call Chaplain Longworth at mil 322-9609, civ (06181) 88-9609 or Chaplain Horton at mil 322-9307/8120, civ (06181) 88-9307/8120.

Vehicle Registry closes Oct. 29

The Hanau Vehicle Registry will close from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 29 for computer system updates.

Halloween party

Club i on Fliegerhorst Kaserne will host a free Halloween party Oct. 31 from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. DJ Linda Halsey spins tunes, and a complimentary Graveyard Buffet will be served at midnight. For details call mil 322-7509, civ (06183) 51-7509.

Cardwell hours

The Cardwell Fitness Center is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fitness classes at Pioneer

Pioneer Fitness Center offers **aerobics** Wednesday from 6-7 p.m., **pilates and yoga** Tuesday from 5-6 p.m. and **spinning** Monday, Thursday and Friday from 6-7 p.m. Classes are \$3 per class or \$30 for 12. For details call mil 322-8197 or civ (06181) 88-8197.

Roller rink shut Oct. 27-31

Illusions Roller Rink at Wolfgang Kaserne will be closed for the installation of a new light and sound system from Oct. 27-31. The roller rink will reopen Nov. 1.

USO classes, tours announced

The USO will offer a series of interior alignment classes, **Room by Room**, Oct. 29 from 6:15-8:15 p.m. Cost is \$20. Sign up by Oct. 28.

The Lunch and Learn series includes **Clutter Clearing** Nov. 12 and 19 from noon to 1 p.m. Cost is \$10. Advance registration is necessary.

Hanau orientation tours will take place Nov. 8 and Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$15. Sign up in advance. An historic

tour travels to the Wallonisch-Niederländische Kirche, Marktplatz, Schloss Philippsruhe and other sites.

Frankfurt train and city tours will take place Nov. 22 and Dec. 20. Cost is \$25 per person. The trip is not recommended for children under age 8 or people with physical limitations because of the extensive walking involved. Dress warmly and bring Euros. Ride the train to Frankfurt am Main, also known as Mainhattan.

USO is located in Building 4 on Pioneer Kaserne. Call mil 322-8725, civ (06181) 561 19 for information.

Concert tickets

Tickets for concerts, theater and sports events are available at CD Tickets, Hanau Marktplatz. Call civ (06181) 258 555 or go online to www.cd-tickets.de. For information about the concert halls in Frankfurt, visit www.hanau.army.mil and click on "Performing arts." Upcoming area shows include:

Nov. 4 — **Iron Maiden**
Nov. 5 — **Deep Purple**
Nov. 6 — **Bob Dylan**
Nov. 9 — **Fleetwood Mac**.

Planning for MLK

The 104th Area Support Group Equal Opportunity Office hosts a Martin Luther King Jr. observance planning meeting every Tuesday at 2 p.m. in Building 3, Room 118, on Pioneer Kaserne. Call Sgt. 1st Class Gayden at mil 322-8012/8021, civ (06181) 88-8012/8021 for details.

ACS monthly Coupon Social

Army Community Service will host Coupon Socials Oct. 30, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Building 9 on Pioneer Kaserne. Call civ (06181) 88-8693/8965, mil 322-8693/8965 for details.

Native American Heritage group

The 104th Area Support Group Equal Opportunity Office and 414th Base Support Battalion Native American Program manager invite all community members to join the planning committee for Native American Heritage Month. The theme is "Honoring Life, Honoring Elders, Honoring Heritage." The committee meets every Tuesday at 2 p.m. in Building 3 on Pioneer Kaserne. Call mil 322-8012/8444 for information.

For late breaking updates go to www.hanau.army.mil

Enjoy fresh pressed apple Süsser

By Heidi Hoess and
Dennis Johnson
414th Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

You must act quickly if you want to try Frischer Süsser — literally “fresh sweetie” — a local Hessische apple juice tradition. In another week or two it will no longer be available. During this time of the year, usually September through the end of October, when the local apples are being harvested, signs appear advertising Frischer Süsser and many Americans may be wondering what they mean.

Various local apple-wine producers, traditional restaurants and some small shops are selling, for just a few weeks, freshly pressed apple juice known as Süsser or Most. Süsser is made from wild apples that grow locally and aren't available in the grocery stores. These apples grow naturally, without chemicals on the grasslands and hillsides of central Germany. They mature, exposed only to nature's life-giving sun, wind and rain, and are harvested by the local farmers.

But what's so special about Süsser? Isn't it just apple juice? Yes, but extremely fresh apple juice. If you buy it directly from the producer (Kelterei), a local shop or a traditional apple-wine restaurant (Ebbelwoi-wirtschaft), it will have been pressed either that day or perhaps the day before. The apples will have been picked just days before too. Commercial juice producers gather apples from all over Europe, Poland being a major source, and by the time they arrive to be pressed they've lost much of their flavor and nutrients. Frischer Süsser is the first product created in the process of making apple wine. This fresh-pressed juice is enjoyed locally for only a few weeks while the rest of the juice is bottled and pasteurized as apple juice or goes for the making of apple wine.

It is best to buy Süsser directly from a Kelterei. In the Hanau region the towns of Hochstadt and Bischofsheim are well known for their Süsser and apple wines. Bring your own container to the Kelterei for a fill-up or they will provide one for you. You may also



Photo by Dennis Johnson

For the freshest apple Süsser and apple wines go directly to the source, such as the Kelterei Jörg Stier in Bischofsheim that produces 40 varieties of apple wine.

find local producers selling their fresh apple products on the weekends in the parking lots of German supermarkets.

Don't be surprised if the Süsser develops a different taste after a few days. As Süsser is a very fresh and natural product, with no added preservatives, it will start to ferment in an attempt to become apple wine. Every day it will taste a little different.

“The fascination with this drink is that it constantly changes and is better every day,” said Jörg Stier, Keltermeister of the Kelterei Jörg Stier in Maintal-Bischofsheim. At this stage the apple juice is called Rauscher. Stier produces over 40 specialty apple-wines and is now working 18-hour days pressing the apples as they come in from the harvest.

He enjoys this time of year while the Süsser is available. “Once it's in the bottle, it's just not the same.” Tasting the fresh juice also gives Stier an idea of the quality of the

wine that will be produced that year and guidance in his wine making process. “It's wonderful to taste the wine during every stage. The juice in October is different than in November as it starts to develop into wine.”

A European taste

The juice that isn't drunk as Süsser or bottled as apple juice will emerge from Stier's wine cellars next January through March as apple wine. Stier produces specialty apple-wine products including “apple champagnes,” ciders and apple wines made in the traditional styles of countries all over Europe. You can try Spanish, French and many German regional-style apple wines.

He also offers a few food products all flavored in some way by apples. Find Kelterei Jörg Stier at Am Kreuzstein 25 in Maintal-Bischofsheim. Call civ (06109) 65099 or email infos@kelterei-stier.de for directions.

Once the Süsser is finished, customers will have to make do with bottled juice or apple wine. If there's not a Kelterei in your area, a restaurant that produces its own apple wine can be recognized by a sign called a Fichtekränzi that looks like a wreath made of pine boughs, often with a Bembel (the traditional gray stoneware jug in which apple wine is served) in the middle. If you go in and order apple wine, the waiter will ask you what size of Bembel you'd like or if you just want a Schoppe. A Schoppe is a single glass of pure apple wine. The people in the state of Hessen drink their apple wine out of a special glass called a Geripples.

A Bembel is the typical gray stoneware container that comes in various sizes depending on the number of Schoppen you get out of it. Since a typical apple wine restaurant produces apple wine in its own cellar, the Bembel is used to keep small amounts of it cool and fresh and also to serve it.

It is also common to drink apple wine as a Gespritzter, or Schorle, which is made of two thirds apple wine and one third sparkling mineral water. If Fanta is used instead of mineral water it's called Süßgespritzter, but that is unusual. Heisser Apfelwein (hot apple wine) is a must during the winter and Christmas season. It's a warm drink of apple wine with cinnamon, clove, lemon and sugar.

Frankfurt and Hessen are famous for their apple wines, known locally as Stöffche or Ebbelwoi. The traditional Frankfurt apple wine is a fully fermented wine with 5-6 percent alcohol by volume, similar to beer but far less than grape wines. Famous are the Possman Apfelwein from Frankfurt and the Höhl Apfelwein from Maintal-Hochstadt. Apple wine contains no additives and is extremely low in sugar and calories — it's even recommended for diabetics.

The history of apple wine in Hessen dates back more than 1,200 years. The first official mention of apple wine can be found in the state records of Emperor Charlemagne (799 A.D.) and those apple wines are still being enjoyed today by the people of Hessen and the Americans who live here.



Photos by Dennis Johnson

You'll find fresh apple Süsser and apple wines in restaurants with the traditional sign called a Fichtekränzi in the pine wreath motif, or go directly to a Kelterei such as the Kelterei Jörg Stier in Maintal-Bischofsheim. Lilli Vorbeck, 3, picks an apple in the orchards above Hochstadt. Jörg Stier pours an apple champagne at his kelterei where he produces 40 varieties of apple wine.

Engineers welcomed home

Hanau soldiers return after eight months in Iraq

By Jayme Loppnow

130th Engineer Brigade Public Affairs Office

Many prayers were answered Oct. 11 when soldiers from the 502nd Engineer Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 565 Engineer Battalion, arrived at Pioneer Kaserne after an eight-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Soldiers were welcomed home by excited families and friends waving flags and banners.

Sammy Jo Lukashow, 3, clad in a mini desert camouflage uniform, and her father, Frank, lined up around the flag pole at Pioneer Kaserne in Hanau waiting for a glimpse of their loved one, Spc. Betty Lukashow. Frank, a stay-at-home-dad, expressed his joy for the return of his wife and reminisced about how rough it was to send his wife to war.

"It was very difficult to send her off," said Lukashow. "It's very hard because she's not just a Soldier going to war; she's a female Soldier going to war. It's scary. When my wife joined the Army we made a deal — she does the Army thing and I raise Sammy. We expected these deployments and knew that this was the way that it was going to be."

Frank was active in the Family Readiness Group and participated in Army Family Team Building classes, which he said made the separation more tolerable and often offered words of wisdom for others. "I tried not to watch CNN. That's one of the key things that I tell everybody. Don't watch the news, don't read the papers. Listen to the people that you trust, like the chain of command."

Besides staying busy in the community Frank played the role of Mr. Mom, raising a daughter and keeping up with household duties but always keeping in mind the safety of his wife. "I'd ask myself everyday, 'Is today the day that I'm going to have to tell my little one that Mom's not coming home?' That's the hard thing. But we sat down and discussed all of this in detail before Betty left, on how to handle different situations."

Betty said she felt comfort in knowing that Frank was taking care of things on the home front. "It makes things a lot easier for me so I don't have to worry when I go and do whatever the Army sends me away to do," she said moments before reuniting with Frank and Sammy Jo. "I don't have to worry about if Samantha is going to be OK, or is he going to know where to go for this, or is he going to know how to do that. I'm going to be the one learning how everything is working now that I'm back home. It's kind of like a role reversal, but it's really nice and comforting."

Betty said she was looking forward to the moment when she was able to embrace her family again, but would try to keep in mind that she is still a Soldier. "I'm going to try and keep my military bearing, but it's going to be very emotional," said Betty.

Steve Lott is another spouse who had to keep all the pieces together while his wife Spc. Renata Lott was away. He's been raising



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Soldiers of the 565th Engineer Battalion march in formation to the Pioneer Fitness Center before being reunited with their families.



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Family members of 565th Engineer Battalion Soldiers hold banners greeting their loved ones as the buses arrive at the Pioneer Kaserne in Hanau.

two children, Kiona, 2, and Devonte, 7, while working at the Pioneer Kaserne Dining Facility. Prayers and letters from his wife got him through the hard times, he said. Steve and Renata were married before she enlisted in the Army and Steve said he always knew of the possibility of deployments and continued to support her. "I'm behind her 100 percent," he said. "Whether you are a mother or father and married to a spouse in the military, you've got to back your partner 100 percent

and keep their morale up." Steve said they planned on spending their first day back doing family things and "just kick back and enjoy each other."

1st Lt. Rose Guerrero, HHD commander, said just watching everyone else's reactions at being home was enough for her. "It was such a great feeling to see everyone's faces all bright and happy," said Guerrero. "I was just excited to see everyone out there waving the flags. It was like homecoming. We got in

"I haven't seen a bathtub in eight months. It's going to be awesome."
— 1st Lt. Rose Guerrero

formation and some of the Soldiers said they saw their spouses. It was a good feeling."

Guerrero prepared for the climate change from the 100-plus degree heat to the rainy, overcast German fall weather. "I actually thought it was going to be colder so I wore a long sleeve T-shirt. Everything is so green and wet; it's not sandy and dry." She planned on spending her first evening at home relaxing. "I'm going to take a shower and then a bath. I haven't seen a bathtub in eight months. It's going to be awesome."

The unit participated in nine bridging missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom including construction of the longest floating river bridge assembled in a combat theater since World War II. The troops spent the majority of the deployment in Tikrit, Iraq, but moved to Camp Virginia, Kuwait, in August to deactivate the 38th Engineer Company and begin reorganization of the 502nd to become a multi role bridge company. About 180 soldiers returned home to complete the reorganization and train on new bridge equipment.